

# **COLCHESTER PLANNING COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**MARCH 8, 2010**

Joint Meeting with Recreation Advisory Board

**PRESENT:** Tom Mulcahy, Rich Paquette, Pam Loranger and Tim Ahonen

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sarah Hadd, Director

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

### **2. Joint Meeting with Recreation Board**

The Recreation Board and Planning Commission met together for the purpose of discussing long-term planning. The Commission shared with the Board information from the 2007 Town Plan regarding recreation and asked for assistance in terms of what the Recreation Board would like to see in the updated 2012 Town Plan.

T. Mulcahy updated the Recreation Board on the work he is doing with regard to creating a vision for Colchester and discussed how recreation plays a vital piece in the future of Colchester.

Additional areas of discussion included, but were not limited to, the following:

- the Commission is working on changes to the Regulations that will assist in protecting the farmers and prime agricultural lands in Colchester - the farmers are overregulated by the State and limited as to what they can do in the future;
- the Planning Commission recently approved and forwarded to the Select Board for public hearing and approval the rezoning of Shipman Hill area to Agricultural Mixed Use District which will provide more flexibility for the property owners;
- the vision and strategy will be for a 50 year period for the Town of Colchester;
- identifying different areas where the money could possibly come from to develop the vision;
- T. Mulcahy is presently meeting with past players who developed the “legacy” for the City of Burlington;
- it is necessary to explore all the options for the future of Colchester and decide which ones are most important and work toward those goals;
- does Colchester want to be a bedroom community, a technology center, an educational district or a destination community;
- possible priorities include sewers and infrastructure and a community center;
- need to develop a philosophy and identify what is the Town’s mission;
- need to develop a sustainable vision that is real and credible;
- the vision will provide a purpose and direction and a strategy will develop as a result of the vision;

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- it will be necessary to form a committee to guide the development process and appoint a project leader.

In conclusion, T. Mulcahy reported that it is anticipated that updates will be given every two months as the vision process moves forward. The Recreation Board will be asked to participate and develop a piece of that vision.

Following the discussion with T. Mulcahy, the Recreation Board shared with the Planning Commission thoughts and ideas about future plans for a community center, Upper Bayside Park and Lower Bayside Park and the importance of the Capital Park Plan. The Board informed the Commission that they are exploring the future of Lower Bayside Park and whether it should become a destination park. Should it be developed so it brings people and revenue to the community? What is its' possible future?

The Planning Commission and Recreation Board thanked each respective Board and Commission for the update and joint discussion.

### **4. Minutes of February 16, 2010**

A **motion** was made by R. Paquette and **seconded** by P. Larrabee to approve the minutes of February 16, 2010. The **motion passed** with a vote of 3 – 0.

### **5. Review Future Agendas**

March 16, 2010 – Evaluation SB Strategic Plan as related to the Town Plan

March 18, 2010 – Meeting with CEDAC

April 6, 2010 – S27 Housekeeping (PUD Regulations & Lot Coverage)

### **6. Packet Information**

The Commission reviewed packet information.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All members of the Commission present voted in favor of the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by Lisa Riddle.

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Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 2010

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